

## REMARKS

Claims 2-4 and 6-22 are currently pending in the application. Claims 2-4, 9, and 12-23 have been amended.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 2-4, 6, and 9-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,493,692 (Theimer) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,067,548 (Cheng).

Theimer is directed to a method for selectively delivering electronic messages to an identified user or users in a system of mobile and fixed devices, including multiple display devices and multiple users, based on the context of the system and the environment of the identified user.

Cheng attempts to dynamically create a business process of an organization. According to Cheng, each of the members belonging to the organization is associated with his/her role and is stored. The business process is completed based on a role of a member that is stored. Cheng also discloses that the business process is completed based on a role of a member or a result obtained by inquiring another member who is involved in the business process.

Cheng uses a role of a member that is stored for each member of the organization and a result obtained by inquiring of a member, in order to dynamically assign a specific member to each of submit\_voucher, Manager\_approval and (VP\_approval), which are business processes from the original proposal to approval as shown in Fig. 1.

In contrast, the present invention determines how to process (allow/deny/inquire of a second user, for example) a requested communication based on a relationship between a first user who made the communication request and a second user who received the communication request from the first user.

Cheng simply discloses that a member of the organization is assigned to a business flow. Explaining the present invention using the expression of Cheng, the present invention achieves an automatic judgment on a process content based on a relationship between the members (role) when any judgment for a content to be processed in a business process becomes necessary.

In contrast to the present invention, Theimer fails to describe that a judgment is made for a process involving two parties, and as such, does not cure the deficiencies of Cheng. Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention cannot be achieved by combining

Theimer and Cheng, as the combination of reference simply describes that a member of the organization is dynamically assigned to a business flow.

Therefore, independent claims 2-4, 9, and 12-23 are patentable over the references. As dependent claims 6 and 10-11 depend from independent claims 4 and 9, respectively, the dependent claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

On page 6 of the Office Action, claims 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Theimer and Cheng view of U.S. Patent No. 5,943,478 (Aggarwal).

Applicants respectfully submit that as Aggarwal is simply related to a system for sending popup messages between users and does not provide or suggest information regarding the subject matter of the currently amended claims, Aggarwal does not cure the deficiencies of Theimer. Therefore, claims 7-8, via independent claim 4, are patentable over the references.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

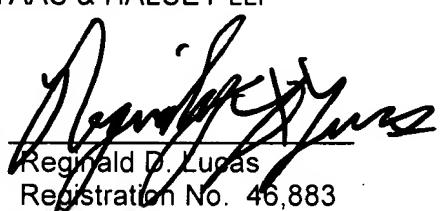
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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